



Frequently Asked Questions About Your Surgery

1. How long will the appointment take?

Surgery appointments can take anywhere between 1 – 3 hours depending on the complexity of the surgery. For example, one dental implant will take approximately one hour. Periodontal surgery takes approximately 1 hour per quadrant. Procedures rarely go over three hours, but if a more extensive surgery is planned, the timing of it will be discussed with you well in advance.

2. What can I eat after my surgery?

Stock up on soft foods for after your surgery. Good examples of what to eat on days 1-4 are Jello, apple sauce, mashed potatoes, scrambled eggs, yogurt, soup (be careful of temperature), and ice cream. If you plan on smoothies, don't drink them through a straw.

3. When can I brush my teeth?

This will vary from surgery to surgery, but a good rule of thumb is not to brush the site until the sutures fall out. For laser periodontal surgery (no sutures), the surgery areas should not be brushed for 7 days but an antiseptic mouthwash is usually prescribed.

4. Do I need to take time off of work?

The doctors recommend taking at least one day off after your surgery since everyone recovers at a different rate. For most surgeries, you should plan to take the day after surgery off. Most surgeries are done on Thursdays or Fridays so that you will have the weekend to recover and return to work on Monday.

5. How much pain will I be in?

Everyone is different so it's impossible to predict how much discomfort you'll have. Pain meds and antibiotics are usually prescribed after surgery to minimize discomfort. Please inform Dr. Turner or O'Neill of any medications that you are allergic to or have had issues with in the past before the procedure. Depending on how invasive the surgery and your body's reaction, soreness may occur for only a day or up to a week. Soreness is common for 1-3 days, in most patients. The post-operative instructions will be given to you on the day of surgery and are to help prevent any complications.

6. Will I be sedated?

Sedation is optional. If you have elected to be sedated for your procedure, it will be on the treatment plan provided to you at the consultation. Look for the words “Conscious Sedation” in the list of procedures. If it’s not planned, and you would like to be sedated for surgery, please contact the office. Under most insurance plans, sedation is not a covered procedure.

7. Can my ride leave if I am sedated?

No. There have been too many instances where the designated driver does not return to pick up the sedated patient. Even the most responsible friend or spouse can have a flat tire, get into a car accident, run out of gas, etc. The person providing you transportation after the surgery must stay in the office for the duration of the procedure.

8. Can I drive after surgery?

If you are having IV sedation or taking a sedative pill, you must have someone drive you home. If you are having the procedure done under a local anesthetic (numbing) then you should be able to drive yourself home.

9. Should I take my regular medications prior to surgery?

Yes, take all of your medications as you normally would prior to surgery, especially if you take medications to control your blood pressure. If your blood pressure is too high because you failed to take your blood pressure medication, the surgery will have to be rescheduled. Diabetics, please check your blood sugar just prior to surgery.

10. Can I take blood thinners prior to surgery?

The doctors will address this prior to your surgery. Generally, we will send a medical clearance form to your physician asking for recommendations regarding your blood thinners. Even Aspirin is a blood thinner so please make sure we have an updated list of all of your medications.